Mines Act, 1952. The matter was also discussed in the Sixth Conference on Safety in Mines held on the 13th and 14th January, 1986. The Conference made *inter-alia* the following recommendations:—

(i) The mine managements should examine and review all installations vis-a-vis the safe distance to be maintained and work out a time bound action plan within one year for rectification alongwith safety precautions to be taken in the interim period to minimise danger.

(ii) All fixed internal combustion engines should be fitted with flame arrestors and air intake shut-off valve with remote control.

(iii) Contingency plan for fire should be framed on priority basis. While doing so, due note of the possible size and duration of fire that may develop should be considered in framing the plan.

(iv) A study should be undertaken to deterimine the cause of fire that occurred in the last five years and the remedial measures.

Renovation of thermal power stations

854. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI P. N. SUKUL:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of thermal power stations the renovation or modernisation of which commenced during the current year; and

(b) the number of thermal power stations which are in urgent need of capital maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) 32 schemes have been sanctioned for implementation under the Centrally sponsored renovation and modernisation programme. In addition, 2 more schemes for renovation and modernisation of Ramagundam thermal power station of APSEB and Namrup thermal power station of ASEB have also been sanctioned which are to be financed entirely from the State Plan funds. During the year 1985-86, the implementation of renovation and modernisation programme has commenced practically at all these stations and is at various stages.

(b) Capital maintenance of the turbines is carried out after about 22,000 to 25,000 working hours or according to the instructions of the manufacturers or even earlier depending upon the conditions of the Unit. On the basis of these considerations and existing system conditions, 37 turbines in thermal power stations of the country have been programmed for capital maintenance during 1986-87.

Loss of plant load factor

855. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI P. N. SUKUL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of Plant Load Factor in 1985-86 due to low quality of coal; and

(b) whether improvement of coal quality will be taken up by an Inter-ministerial agency?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) It is not practicable to quantify the loss of plant load factor on account of coal quality alone. Quality Control Organisations at the collieries have been strengthened and quality complaints are closely monitored by the Deptt. of Power and Coal.